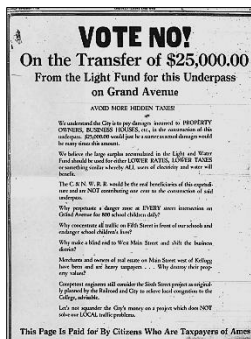


Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2012 SPRING.....ISSUE #2/4

The mission of the Ames Historical Society is to preserve local history and illuminate its stories.



Learn more about trains and civic issues at the exhibition:

Rail Reality: How the Trains Made Ames.

Ames Historical Society Board:

Co-President Mary Atherly
Co-President Kathy Svec
Secretary Laura Sullivan
Treasurer Ken Cameron

Board Members:

Mary Ann Barnes, Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Matthew Donovan, Craig Hastings, Phyllis Heffron, Carol Phillips, Mike Quinn, Lynette Spicer, Ardy Ulrichson, Sharon Wirth

The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 6:45pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Administrator Alan Spohnheimer
Staff Casie Brockert, Dennis Wendell
Margaret Vance

Facility Manager Vacant; seeking volunteer

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in local and state history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

Headqtrs: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Open Wed-Fri, 1-5pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232- 2148
E-mail: mail@ameshistoricalsociety.org
Website: www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org

The newsletter is published four times a year for A. H. S. members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Open April 1 through October 31.

RAIL Reality

how the
Trains
made AMES

OPENING JUNE 1, 2012!

Please join us for an exhibition commemorating the many ways that railroads have influenced the development of our town. Co-sponsored with the Octagon Center for the Arts, the exhibit will fill all three of their galleries at 427 Douglas through October 28. This year marks the Union Pacific's Sesquicentennial.

**The Grand Opening is during the
Main Street Cultural District's ArtWalk, June 1, 5-8pm.**

The exhibit will feature three separate train-related exhibits:

Community Gallery – street level

Tracks: The Railroad Artwork of Stewart Buck (through Aug. 11)

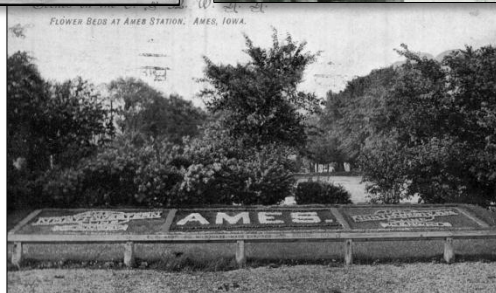
Sweeney Gallery – third floor

Modeling Ames Trains - model layouts of the downtown Ames rail yards as they looked in the 1930s and of the 1891 Ames & College Railroad aka "The Dinkey" (through Oct. 28)

Main Gallery – third floor

Rail Reality: How the Trains Made Ames - a historical overview of the impact of railroads on Ames at six key time periods (through Oct. 28)

- 1850s to 1870s - *The National Scene and Race Across Iowa*
- 1890 to 1910 - *Railroads are Part of Daily Life*
- 1914 to 1918 - *Ames Grows into a City*
- 1930s to 1940s - *Heyday of the Railroads*
- 1960s to 1970s - *Challenging Times for Railroads*
- 1985 to 1995 - *Safety, Growth and Mergers*
- Also, displays on loan from the Union Pacific Museum in Council Bluffs:
UP Fast Facts and Passenger Service



See page two for gallery viewing hours at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas.

Summer & Fall Gallery Talks

During the run of the train exhibition, Gallery Talks will be presented each month at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas, Ames.



Stewart Buck pastel drawing



One of The Dinkey's engines

Fri. June 1, 5-8pm during ArtWalk

Meet and greet former Ames artist, Stewart Buck in the Octagon's Community Gallery and tour the third floor galleries during the exhibit's Grand Opening.

Tue. June 19, 7pm

The History of the Ames & College Railway, "The Dinkey" presented by Kathy Svec

This unique locally-owned small-scale train joined campus and town in a time before reliable roads and personal automobiles (1891-1907). Though its history is short, the A&CR had long-lasting effects.



Fort Dodge Line electric trolley



Sorting mail in the mail car

Tue. July 17, 7pm

The History of the Ft. Dodge Line in Ames

presented by Bob Bourne

The Fort Dodge Line bought out "The Dinkey" and extended service south to Des Moines and north to Fort Dodge on electric trolleys, the first efficient inter-urban service available to Ames residents.

Tue. Aug. 21, 7pm

Mail on Rails: History of the Railroad Post Office

presented by Rudy Daniels

Reliable mail service was a high priority in our country's early years and as rail networks expanded, they were seen as the best way to move mail and small freight parcels. Special cars were outfitted for mail service. Rudy Daniels presented *Trains Across Iowa* in this year's lecture series.

Octagon Center for the Arts Gallery Hours:

Main Gallery & Sweeney Gallery:

Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm, Saturday-Sunday 1 - 5 pm

Community Gallery: Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm



Union Pacific passing trains



Coal trains

Tue. Sept. 18, 7pm

The Railroad Today presented by Brenda Mainwaring, Union Pacific Dir. of Public Affairs/ Iowa-Nebraska

As the most fuel efficient and environmentally friendly freight transportation mode available, railroads are enjoying surging business. Their privately funded networks help reduce heavy freight on publicly funded roadways. Most logistics professionals consider the 150-year-old railroad industry as essential to meeting future freight transportation demands.

Sat. Oct. 6, 2pm

Today's Freight Train presented by ISU Railroad Club

Do you watch freight trains and wonder what's in them? Patrick Johnson and Club members will "decode" what is carried in different types of Union Pacific cars, where they start their trip and where the freight is delivered. They will also present information on UP's locomotives.

Steam Engine Whistle Stop

Sunday, September 9

Save the date for the Whistle Stop in Ames by Union Pacific's vintage steam engine #844, on the track near Ames High School, 20th & Ridgewood

Morning, approx. 2 hours (time and details to be announced closer to the date)

Exhibition Sponsors

Octagon Center for the Arts, Union Pacific Foundation; Friends of the Union Pacific Museum; Union Pacific Railroad; Alliant Energy Foundation; Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau Community Grant Program; Kate Shelley Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA); Bryan Anderson

Exhibition Contributors

Joe Pierson & Chicago & North Western Historical Society; State Historical Society of Iowa; Ames Town & Country Kiwanis; Ian MacGillivray & Iowa Transportation Museum; Ames Tribune, Karin Sevde & Sevde Storage, Trains Magazine, Ames Parks & Recreation Dept., Ames Laboratory of the US Dept. of Energy, Dick Steffan, Bob Drenth, Heather Johnson, Beth Lindquist, Brenda Mainwaring, Hank Zalatel & Iowa Dept. of Transportation; Ames Public Library's Farwell T. Brown Photo Archive, Jim Graham, Chuck Mischke, NMRA members Bob Folkmann, Al Warren and Dave Yetter, Carol Lauber of Caboose Stop Hobbies, Deb Spohnheimer, Community Truck

Hoggatt School Opens for the 2012 Season



Hoggatt School: 1860s One-Room Country School Museum

Pioneer settlers first built their homes, then their schools and then their churches. Hoggatt School was just such a school for the children of pioneer families in the Ames area, built in 1861-1862. It was used until 1868, a total of 6 years. The school played a dual role: it was first a country school and then was the first public educational building in the city of Ames.

Restored to the 1862 time period, the school is open by appointment for group tours and programs from April 1 to October 31, 2012. Call 515-232-2148.

**Regular 2012 public open hours are
Sundays, June 3 to August 26, from 2 to 4 p.m.**

2012 Special Events at Hoggatt

Sunday, June 3, open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **Civil War-era Games**

Come play the simple but energetic games that school children played in the 1860s!

Sunday, June 10, open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **Ames' Earliest Teachers**

Learn about Sarah Emery and Henry May, the young girl and older man who were the two teachers at Hoggatt and the first school teachers in Ames. (pictures, right)

Sunday, June 17, Open House, 2 - 4 p.m.

Come explore a one-room school and learn about early education!

Sunday, June 24, open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **What They Wore: Clothing in the 1860s**

Hear about the clothing worn in the 1860s, see some examples and take the opportunity to try some on.

Sunday, July 1, open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **Civil War-era Games**

Sunday, July 8, Open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social**

Cool summer treats, the hand-cranked way.

Sunday, July 15, Open House, 2 - 4 p.m.

Sunday, July 22, open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **Stories of a Country School Student**

Jim Graham of Ames will talk about his experiences as a student in a one-room school.

Sunday, July 29, Open House, 2 - 4 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 5, open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **Civil War-era Games**

Sunday, Aug. 12, open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **Finding and Restoring Hoggatt School**

Follow this amazing detective story about Farwell Brown and his search for Hoggatt School.

Sunday, Aug. 19, Open House, 2 - 4 p.m.

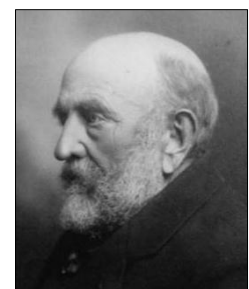
Sunday, Aug. 26, open 2 - 4 p.m.

At 3pm - **What's in Your 1860s Lunch Box?**

Long before school cafeterias, families sent their children to school with simple home-prepared foods. Find out what may have been for lunch in the 1860s.

**Hoggatt School is located at 18th & Burnett
on Meeker School's playground in Ames.**

Events are free and open to the public.

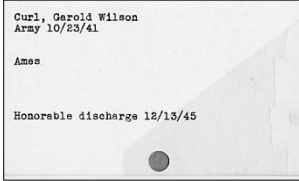


We Get Mail!

World War II Index Prompts Email

Sent: Saturday, April 14, 2012

Subject: WW2 Veteran Database / G.W. Curl



From Bruce Curl: "I was pleased to find my father's name, Garold Wilson Curl, listed with his honorable discharge date. He never could talk much about his

service life with his family. He had a degree in Physics, was a ham radio operator and was capable of working a photography darkroom when he enlisted. Because of the wide range of jobs he could do, he was assigned to Alamogordo, NM on the Manhattan Project during the final year of WW2. He was lucky enough to be non-essential for the day they tested the first atomic bomb there. He left the base a few days prior to the detonation. He was acquainted with the scientists because of his physics qualifications, even carried some parts of it to the tower; but mostly helped setup photographic equipment to document the test, and keep the base radios in tune."

Sent: Monday, March 5, 2012

Subject: Thanks

From John Langland, Iowa City: "Thanks for providing the WWII vets information on your site. My father, Lowell Langland, has been recently selected to go on a WWII Honor Flight out of the Eastern Iowa Airport in April. I happened to Google his name and found the information on your site. You also have information on my Uncles Francis and Floyd as well as my Aunt Margaret. Thanks for preserving this history. "

Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2012

Subject: W.W. II soldiers

From Alma Langland: "Our son recently forwarded the



information that he found on your website regarding the four Langland siblings that served in W.W. II. My husband really enjoyed seeing this and sent the information to one of his nieces. He also enjoyed looking up info on some of his old classmates and relatives, who also served (and many that were killed in action). Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate all the work that you did to put

this on a website. We recently donated a lot of information, pictures, etc. from Margaret Langland to the women's archives at the University of Iowa.



She served as an army nurse in a MASH type unit right behind the front lines.

Once we are gone, all this information and history will be lost forever. So thanks again for all of your hard work."

Circus Story Brings Back Memories

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Subject: The Leiningers

From Frank Ferguson, Lincoln, MA: "A friend shared the notice of the Leininger [lecture in your series]. I was born in Ames in 1926 and moved away in 1951. In 1934 our family moved from Ridgewood to 1527 Grand Ave. where I lived for the next 15 years, just up the street



from the Leiningers. I was in their home many times, got bit by their rhesus monkey and saw a lot of dancing in their studio. Great family! If I had been a bit

older I might have fallen for one (or both) of the two lovely sisters. It's just possible that Zelletia may remember me at, then age 10-15. Please give her my best regards."

Note: On Nov. 30, 2011, the Leininger Twins' former dance studio on Grand Avenue in Ames was torn down.

Ames Library History Presentation

Sent: March 29, 2012

Subject: City Boards & Commission Luncheon



From Diane Voss, City Clerk and Records Manager to Kathy Svec, Society speaker:

"I so enjoyed your presentation at the Boards &

Commissions Luncheon on the history of the library. I hated when it was over! I heard so many comments about what a great choice the Mayor had made in having you speak, how much they had learned from your presentation, and how interesting it was."

Note: organizations may request this program for their group!

Headquarters Happenings: Around 416 Douglas

Annual Meeting & “Burning”

The March 3 Annual Meeting and Contract Burning was well attended and a great social event. Society members and guests first enjoyed an entertaining program by TJ Larson (below, center) featuring excerpts from our Oral History recordings. Then, the ceremonial burning of the paid-off building contract was roundly applauded and new exhibits and a light lunch were enjoyed at Society headquarters.



Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Subject: Kudos

From Craig Textor: Heartiest congratulations and a sincere thank you to all who prepared and performed recently at [Society's Annual Meeting] at the library – and the displays and food at the Historical Society headquarters were terrific. What a day it was! Oh, yes, the burning (top, right) was good, too.

Scouts Visit HQ



This group of Brownie Scouts and their leaders enjoyed hearing about local history during their February 22 visit to the Society. Both Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups visit to fulfill requirements for their badges.

New in the Museum Shop

The updated Ames High School Alumni Directory is here. It is just \$20 (with \$5 going to AHS). It is a great source of information about former Ames people.



Iowa in the Civil War Speaker

February's lecture on *Iowa in the Civil War* featured O.J. Fargo (second left), a speaker with the Humanities Iowa Speaker's Bureau. On the evening of the lecture, a group of four of O.J.'s fellow re-enactors dropped by to add a little “color” as well as their expertise (above).

Mr. Fargo brought the roster of all Iowans who served in the Civil War for those interested in looking up family members. However, with the crush of other questions after his talk, he was unable to provide this information. He is willing to answer inquiries sent to ojfargo@iowatelecom.net.

Big Screen Monitor



On display at the Annual Meeting Open House was the large-screen monitor (arrow) that was purchased with gifts and grants from the following: Greater Iowa Credit Union, Ames Rotary, Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, Wells Fargo Bank and Dennis Wendell, as well as the Society's operating funds.

The monitor, which can be seen easily from across the room, will be used for in-house presentations and for recognizing donors. We are pleased and grateful to be able to add this amenity for visitors.

Assistance With Train Exhibit



Ames Town & Country Kiwanis provide the muscle in March to move exhibits on loan from the Union Pacific Museum in Council Bluffs. Our

warmest thanks go to Don Erickson, Paul Lundy, Cindy and Wayne Schwickerath, Paul Brackelsberg, Bill Shrum and Ray Callahan – and to Ian MacGillivray, Iowa Transportation Museum, Grinnell, who arranged for trucking from Council Bluffs.

The exhibits were placed in storage donated by Karin Sevde, of Sevde Storage, until they could be installed at the Octagon in conjunction with the train exhibition.

In addition, the City of Ames Parks & Recreation Department allowed use of space in the lower level of the Bandshell for staging the exhibit prior to installation.

Changes on Board of Directors



Rollie



Willie



Peggy

Four members of the Society's Board completed terms in March. We wish to acknowledge and thank these hard working individuals for their years of service and their vision for the Society's future.

Peggy Baer served for 15 years, spending the last two years as president. Peggy filled multiple administrative roles over the years and is an expert grant writer. Rollie and Willie Struss served countless years (at least 12) and among many contributions, oversaw restoration of the Bauge Log Home, co-chaired the Legacy Ames campaign and initiated the *Did You Know?* oral history program. Meg Speer served three years and was active on the Membership Committee that added over 100 new members last year. She also researched and wrote articles for the newsletter.

New to the Board are Mary Ann Barnes, retired realtor, Don Beitz, retired ISU faculty, Keith Bystrom, ISU Legal Counsel, Craig Hastings, Ames attorney, Phyllis Heffron, retired nurse, Laura Sullivan, ISU Special Collections, Ardy Ulrichson, retired ISU program coordinator. Welcome, all!

Collections Storage Challenge

by Dennis Wendell and Kathy Svec

At the Society, collections storage is becoming a critical issue. Items are stored in ten different locations, some of which are rented (below) and some that are donated.

While all areas are secure, the most pressing need is for all collections to be under one roof in an easily accessible and controlled environment.

Local realtors have been showing Board members possible spaces in Ames and there are hopes the right location can be found at a cost we can afford.

In the meantime we are rearranging space in our various storage areas, declining donations that do not fit our collecting areas, re-evaluating items for possible de-accessioning when feasible and loaning objects to other institutions to gain space for important material. Acquisitions are guided by a well-developed collections policy and overseen by the Collections Committee.



Since the course of history moves forever on, we cannot merely stop collecting if our mission is to document our community and leave a legacy for future generations. Ames has always been looked upon as a leader in Story County. It's important that we do so in preserving history as well.

The Society will be forming a committee to pursue a solution to the storage challenge and to develop a financing plan. Members interested in being part of the committee may contact headquarters at 515-232-2148.

Iowa Heritage Byway



The route of the original 1913 Lincoln Highway through Ames is now a designated "Iowa Heritage Byway".

Watch for the signs (left) that have been placed on Lincoln Way and then turn north at Sheldon Avenue, the direction the route initially took before being realigned to go directly west on the "Boone Road".

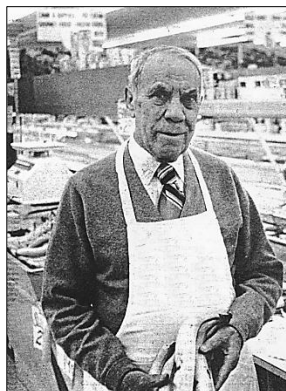
For more information and an Iowa map of the route, go to <http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa/>.

Think about an interesting summer drive!

Ames Fruit & Grocery Memory

Delbert Johnson, the long-time manager of several of Abe Mezvinsky's Ames Fruit & Grocery stores passed away on Feb. 29. A former employee, Tom Svec, wrote this remembrance about Mr. Johnson and the grocery store he worked in – the original AF&G store on North Second Street (now home to Heuss Printing).

"Memories of that time period in my life (1966 to '72) have been flooding back all week. The relationship between Delbert, Abe Mezvinsky (left), and the physical



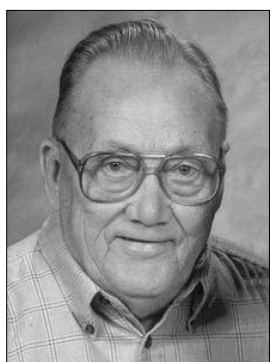
location of the store across from the old St. Cecilia School are all throwbacks to an era that is gone or disappearing fast.

As these things go, I was, in hindsight, part of something that belonged to another time – I caught the tail end of it.

That store was, at one time, serviced by its own rail siding.

Abe's fortune was made not in retail groceries but in the buying and selling of railcar lots of just about anything edible. When I first started working there the old families all still had charge accounts kept in little pads with carbon paper.

My working relationship with Delbert (below) entailed almost anything a person could think of including things that are hard to believe looking back.



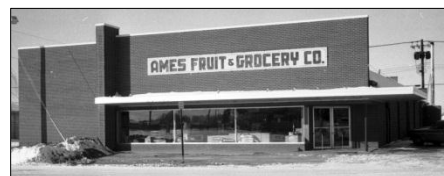
Among the activities was the occasional unloading of box cars from Libby, Festal, Green Giant and others. They would park them on a siding behind Main Street and we, Dean Barnhart among the chosen, would go unload them by hand. You have watched box cars roll past by the train-load all your life, but they are just a visual

cliché until you go to unload them. By hand!

The hobos - Delbert and Abe knew them all. The amount of charity that flowed out of that building would surprise a lot of people today. I drove a delivery truck and among all the wholesale accounts there were always boxes of food going to shut-ins all over Ames. I would be dropped off at some house in town to do odds and ends of work at store expense for someone who was part of "the flock."

Delbert was rough and tumble and full of bluster, but underneath it all he had a heart of gold. Generous, I'm afraid, to a fault." (below, northside store)

We'd be pleased to hear other memories about Abe, Delbert and the Ames Fruit & Grocery Stores.



Ames Pulitzer Prize Winners

by Tom Emmerson

Ames has been the home (at least in passing) of eight persons who have won a total of nine Pulitzer Prizes.

Of these, four are Ames High School graduates, three others were graduates of Iowa State, while two worked in Ames for more than a few years.

Ames High graduates are: Robert L. Bartley ('55) who won a Pulitzer in 1980 for editorial writing; Theodore (Ted) Kooser ('57) whose Pulitzer in 2005 was for poetry; and Brian Smith ('77) who was honored in 1985 for news photography (covering the Los Angeles Olympics) with the Orange County (CA) Register.

The two who labored in Ames were Michael Gartner, editor of the Ames Tribune, whose Pulitzer was for editorial writing; and Jane Smiley, professor of English at Iowa State (1981-96), who received her Pulitzer in 1992 for fiction ("A Thousand Acres").

Iowa State graduates who have received Pulitzers are Lauren Soth ('32 and '38) for editorial writing for the Des Moines Register in 1956 and Tom Knudsen ('80), who received two Pulitzer Prizes. The first was for National Reporting in 1985 when he was with the Register. His second Pulitzer was for Public Service in 1980 with the Sacramento (CA) Bee for coverage of the environmental threats to the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

In addition to these two, a third ISU graduate, Christopher Adams ('88) shared a Pulitzer in 1998 for National Reporting at the Wall Street Journal in 1999. Ames High's Bartley graduated from Iowa State ('59).



Smiley



Bartley



Kooser

Society News

Model Railroaders Create Exhibit

Members of the Kate Shelley Division of the National Model Railroad Association have created two models for the train exhibit, *Rail Reality: How the Trains Made Ames*.



Here, Bob Folkmann shows progress on the Ames rail yard model that will be on display. Dave Yetter, Al Warren and Rich Liebich have also taken lead roles in the project, assisted by Roger Berger. In addition, Bryan Anderson is creating a model of the "Dinkey".

The Only One

The Society contributed an Ames photograph to Johnson County (Iowa) Historical Society's temporary exhibit, *The Only One: Exploring the Experience of Being a Minority in Iowa*. Using photographs and oral histories, the exhibit conveys what it is like to be the only minority on a sports team or the only female in a factory. It will run through December 31, 2012 in Coralville and opens at the African American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids on January 14, 2013. For information <http://www.jchsiowa.org/news/>

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label for information about your membership. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, allowing us to continue to be a valued community resource. We thank you!

Introductory - 1st year	\$10	Sustaining	\$100
Individual	\$25	Sustaining Plus	\$101-500
Family	\$40	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society. PO Box 821. Ames. IA 50010

Endowment Contribution

Future stability of the Society's daily operations depends on growing a strong Endowment. Let's build upon the success of the Challenge Grant!

Amount _____

Name _____

Address _____

**Mail to: Story County Community Foundation,
PO Box 1666, Ames, IA 50010**

Return Service Requested

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